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EXAMINER	
DAFTUAR, SAKET K	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/713,481	SAHA, PARTHA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	SAKET K. DAFTUAR	2451	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *21 January 2009*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,3,5-8,10,12 and 14-17* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12, 14-17* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's submission filed on January 21st, 2009 has been entered. Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12, and 14-17 are presented for the further examination.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3,5-8, 10, 12, 14-17 have been considered they are not persuasive

a. Applicant argues that Black failed to disclose network management agent for receiving a master SNMP network management request for receiving a master SNMP network management request message from SNMP management system.

In response to applicant argument a), applicant arguments with respect to Black reference have been considered and are now in moot of new ground of rejection.

b. Applicant argues that Chaplin failed to disclose client response message including the client object identifier and the variable value from the client management information base; and wherein the master SNMP response message includes each of the master object identifier and each of the master object identifier is associated with the variable value received in the client response message.

In response to applicant argument b), Applicant In response to applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper

hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971).

As admitted by applicant assigned representative or applicant in General Discussion of remarks, applicant admitted that SNMP is well known communication protocol that enables SNMP manager to collect data from SNMP managed clients. If applicant is claiming a well known protocol that enables communication on behalf of agent, then without such differentiation it is hard to tell whether or not applicant invention is owned by applicant. For example, applicant argues about receiving a master SNMP network management request message but failed to define such “master SNMP network management request message" in claim. Applicant is reminded that although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Similarly, Chaplin discloses in background of invention that:

> SNMP uses a relatively limited set of operations to perform its management functions. For example, "Gets" are used to retrieve information and "Sets" are used to modify information. Each Get request includes an identifier to distinguish it from other requests and to identify

the network element about which information is requested. Gets are answered with a "Get Response" which includes an identifier to associate it with the appropriate Get request and the data requested thereby. Sets are used to describe an action to be performed on a network element, e.g., to change a value. In addition, "Traps" may be used to report unusual conditions or to change the status of a network element.

The management information base (MIB) is one of the most important components of the network management system because it identifies the network elements (i.e., it describes the managed objects 16) that are to be managed. The MIB also contains the unique identifiers (addresses) that are to be associated with each managed object 16. The MIB then, is a database that contains information about the managed objects 16. For example, the MIB may contain information about the number of cells or packets sent or received across an interface or the number of connections on a port card of a switch in the network. Further, the MIB contains information that describes each network management user's ability to access elements of the MIB. For example, one user may have read-only privileges, while another may have read-write privileges. “

As it is admitted that SNMP is well known in network management and network communication, such sending and receiving is directed to message or packet communication. As such the person skilled in the art would recognize such communication as a network messaging communication and such sending

and receiving in communication network must have created or generated a packet or message before transmitting such packets or messages. Therefore, Chaplin discloses client response message including the client object identifier and the variable value from the client management information base (see column 2, line 4- column 3, line 14, column 4, line 43 – column 6, line 5); and wherein the master SNMP response message includes each of the master object identifier and each of the master object identifier is associated with the variable value received in the client response message (see column 2, line 4 – column 3, line 14, see column 4, line 43 – column 6, line 5).

Therefore, based on broadest reasonable interpretation to the claim language such message would be considered as a regular message for communication. Without such clarification in claim language that certain limitation is different from well known and applicant admission to the well known subject matter, SNMP define itself as a network management protocol and all SNMP message will be considers as a network management message. Therefore, the office failed to identify the novelty as argued by applicant and below examiner has provided the claimed interpretation that clarifies why the instant application is not in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the

> art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 1, 3, and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Amended claim 1 now recites the sub-manager comprising: " a computer executing instruction…", However, the applicant current disclosure provide no support for such disclosure. In fact, the specification failed to disclose any computer in instant application specification.

Specification

5. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: The specification failed to provide proper antecedent basis for "computer executing instructions" , "computer-readable medium" and "medium" . An appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

6. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

7. Claims 1, 3, and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1, 3, and 5-8 recites a sub-manager for interfacing between SNMP management system and SNMP managed clients. Amended claim 1 now recites a sub manager comprising "a computer executing instructions encoded on a computer-readable medium…" An amended claim recites the intended use of sub-manager and therefore, fails to provide any evidence that such sub-manager is positively tied up with any particular machine. While the claims recite a series of steps or acts to be performed, a statutory "process" under 35 U.S.C. 101 must (1) be tied to particular machine, or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or material) to a different state or thing. See page 10 of In Re Bilski 88 USPQ2d 1385. As such claims are still intended for software per se. Page 7 of specification discloses that applicant intended to use block executing code, machine readable code such as "software" only. Therefore, the claims lack the necessary physical articles or objects to constitute a machine or a manufacture within the meaning of 35 USC 101. They are clearly not a series of steps or acts to be a process nor are they a combination of chemical compounds to be a composition of matter. As such, they fail to fall within a statutory category. They are, at best, functional descriptive material *per se*.

Descriptive material can be characterized as either "functional descriptive material" or "nonfunctional descriptive material." Both types of "descriptive material" are nonstatutory when claimed as descriptive material *per se*, 33 F.3d

at 1360, 31 USPQ2d at 1759. When functional descriptive material is recorded on some computer-readable medium, it becomes structurally and functionally interrelated to the medium and will be statutory in most cases since use of technology permits the function of the descriptive material to be realized. Compare *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 1583-84, 32 USPQ2d 1031, 1035 (Fed. Cir. 1994)

Merely claiming nonfunctional descriptive material, i.e., abstract ideas, stored on a computer-readable medium, in a computer, or on an electromagnetic carrier signal, does not make it statutory. See *Diehr*, 450 U.S. at 185-86, 209 USPQ at 8 (noting that the claims for an algorithm in *Benson* were unpatentable as abstract ideas because "[t]he sole practical application of the algorithm was in connection with the programming of a general purpose computer.").

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 1 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Champlin et al US Patent Number 6,519,635 B1 (hereinafter Champlin).

As per claims 1 and 10, Champlin discloses a network management agent (SNMP manager) for i) receiving a master SNMP network management request message from the SNMP network management system (see figures 1-2, and 4, column 1, line 37 – column 3, line 35, column 4, line 20 – column 6, line 23); and ij) providing a master SNMP response message to the SNMP network management system (see figures 1-2, and 4, column 1, line 37 – column 3, line 35, column 4, line 20 – column 6, line 23);the master SNMP network management request message includes a plurality of variable values [values figure 3], each variable value being identified by a master object identifier selected from a master information base (see figures 1-2, and 4, column 1, line 37 – column 3, line 35, column 4, line 20 – column 6, line 23), each master object identifier comprising :a connections module, for each of the plurality of SNMP managed clients: establishing an internet protocol connection with such SNMP managed client (see figures 1-2, and 4, column 1, line 37 – column 3, line 35, column 4, line 20 – column 6, line 23); and both: i) providing, to each of the plurality of SNP managed clients, a client network management request message (see figures 1-2, and 4, column 1, line 37 – column 3, line 35, column 4, line 20 – column 6, line 23) ; and ii) receiving, from each of the plurality of SNMP managed clients, a client response message, in each case, through the internet protocol connection (see figures 1-2, and 4, column 1, line 37 – column 3, line 35, column 4, line 20 – column 6, line 23).a client identifier that identifies a particular one of the plurality of SNMP managed clients which has a client

management information base that includes a requested variable value (see Abstract, column 2, line 58 – column 3, line 14, column 4, lines 49-64); and a variable identification portion, the variable identification portion being a client object identifier that identifies the variable value within the client management information base (see Abstract, column 2, line 58 – column 3, line 14, column 4, lines 49-64);receiving the master SNMP network management request message for each master object identifier included in the master SNMP network management request message, generating the client network management request message, the client network management request message including the client object identifier that identifies the variable value within the client management information base (see Abstract, column 2, line 58 – column 3, line 14, column 4, lines 49-64); generating the master SNMP response message from each received client response message (translating the identification data for an SNMP sub-agent, see column 3, lines 45-55); wherein each client response message including the client object identifier and the variable value from the client management information base (see column 2, line 4- column 3, line 14, column 4, line 43 – column 6, line 5); and wherein the master SNMP response message includes each of the master object identifier and each of the master object identifier is associated with the variable value received in the client response message (see column 2, line 4 – column 3, line 14, see column 4, line 43 – column 6, line 5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 3, 5-8, 12, and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Champlin et al US Patent Number 6,519,635 (hereinafter Champlin) and McHann Jr. U.S. Patent Number 5,991,806 (hereinafter McHann) and further in view of Barry et al US Patent Number 7,225,249 B1 (hereinafter Barry).

Champlin discloses a network management agent (SNMP manager) for i) receiving a master SNMP network management request message from the SNMP network management system; and ij) providing a master SNMP response message to the SNMP network management system;the master SNMP network management request message includes a plurality of variable values, each variable value being identified by a master object identifier selected from a master information base, each master object identifier comprising :a connections module, for each of the plurality of SNMP manaqed clients: establishing an internet protocol connection with such SNMP managed client; and both: i) providing, to each of the plurality of SNP managed clients, a client network management request message ; and ii) receiving, from each of the plurality of SNMP managed clients, a client response message, in each case, through the internet protocol connection a client identifier that identifies a particular one of the

plurality of SNMP managed clients which has a client management information base that includes a requested variable value; and a variable identification portion, the variable identification portion being a client object identifier that identifies the variable value within the client management information base;receiving the master SNMP network management request message for each master object identifier included in the master SNMP network management request message, generating the client network management request message, the client network management request message including the client object identifier that identifies the variable value within the client management information base; generating the master SNMP response message from each received client response message; wherein each client response message including the client object identifier and the variable value from the client management information base; and wherein the master SNMP response message includes each of the master object identifier and each of the master object identifier is associated with the variable value received in the client response message.

As per claims 3 and 5-8, Champlin is silent about two master object identifiers, each master object identifier comprising a client identifier that is unique from the client identifier of at least one other master object identifier; the firewall serving such SNMP managed client in response to receiving a connection request initiating by such SNMP managed client and a device state machine provides, a TCP/IP connection and device state machine; and receiving

an asynchronous client Trap message initiated by client over the internet protocol connection established with client, the asynchronous client Trap message including a client object identifier and a variable value associated with the client object identifier; identifying the client that initiated the asynchronous client Trap message; and generating an asynchronous master Trap message and providing the asynchronous master Trap message to the network management system , the asynchronous master Trap message including the value and a master object identifier , the master object identifier including a client identifier identifying the client that initiated the asynchronous client Trap message and a variable portion identifying the variable value.

As per claim 3, Champlin discloses each internet protocol connection is established with a SNMP managed client (see figures 1-2, and 4, column 1, line 37 – column 3, line 35, column 4, line 20 – column 6, line 23); the connections module further records, in an active connections table [translate table], for each internet protocol connection, a client connection identifier in association with the client identifier identifying the SNMP managed client that initiated the internet protocol connection (see figures 1-2, and 4, column 1, line 37 – column 3, line 35, column 4, line 20 – column 6, line 23); and the client network management request message to the particular one of the SNMP managed clients by providing the client network management request over the internet protocol connection that associates with the particular one of the SNMP managed clients

in the active connections table (see figures 1-2, and 4, column 1, line 37 – column 3, line 35, column 4, line 20 – column 6, line 23).

However Chaplin is silent about the firewall serving such SNMP managed client in response to receiving a connection request initiating by such SNMP managed client and a device state machine provides, a TCP/IP connection and device state machine.

Barry teaches each connection is a TCP/IP connection that is established with a client, through the firewall [see column 10, lines 15-19 and 58-63] serving such SNMP managed client in response to receiving a connection request initiating by such SNMP managed client.

McHann teaches a device state machine provides [column 11, lines 2-39, and device state].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Champlin, McHann and Barry because they are all from the same field endeavor to provides a method which includes translating information data for an SNMP sub-agent and an SNMP command, from the first format to second format and further allows translating the identification data for an SNMP sub-agent and an SNMP command and also provides an integrated customer interface and web-based delivery system for delivering to customers a number of products and services available from remote servers that facilitates and simplifies customer access to,

and management of, all of their network assets and network management products and services.

As per claims 5-8, Champlin discloses a client is SNMP managed client (See Abstract).

As per claim 5, In addition to Champlin, McHann discloses periodically receiving a heart beat message from the client over the internet protocol connection [specific power event signal, column 10, lines 34 – column 11, line, 60]; each heart beat message including the client identifier and a time interval between the heart beat message and a subsequent heart beat message [column 8, lines 1-9, column 10, lines 34 – column 11, line, 60];updating the client connection identifier in the active connection table if the source IP address or the source port number obtained from the heart beat message differs from that of a previous heart beat message [column 8, lines 1-9, column 10, lines 34 – column 11, line, 60];providing a heart beat acknowledgement message to the SNMP managed client over the Intemet protocol connection [column 8, lines 1-9, column 10, lines 34 – column 11, line, 60]; and determining that the internet protocol connection is inactive if a time period in excess of the time interval elapses during which a subsequent heart beat has not been received [column 8, lines 1-9, column 10, lines 34 – column 11, line, 60].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Champlin, McHann and Barry because they are all from the same field endeavor to provides

a method which includes translating information data for an SNMP sub-agent and an SNMP command, from the first format to second format and further allows translating the identification data for an SNMP sub-agent and an SNMP command and also provides an integrated customer interface and web-based delivery system for delivering to customers a number of products and services available from remote servers that facilitates and simplifies customer access to, and management of, all of their network assets and network management products and services.

As per claim 6, McHann discloses the master response message includes an indication that the a value does not exist if the value is associated with a master object identifier that includes a client identifier associated with an client with which the internet protocol connection is inactive (see column 2, line 16 – column 3, line 14, column 4, lines 49-64).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Champlin, McHann and Barry because they are all from the same field endeavor to provides a method which includes translating information data for an SNMP sub-agent and an SNMP command, from the first format to second format and further allows translating the identification data for an SNMP sub-agent and an SNMP command and also provides an integrated customer interface and web-based delivery system for delivering to customers a number of products and services available from remote servers that facilitates and simplifies customer access to,

and management of, all of their network assets and network management products and services.

As per claim 7, McHann discloses the master network management request message comprises at least two master object identifiers, each master object identifier comprising a client identifier that is unique from the client identifier of at least one other master object identifier (see column 2, line 16 – column 3, line 14, column 4, lines 49-64).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Champlin, McHann and Barry because they are all from the same field endeavor to provides a method which includes translating information data for an SNMP sub-agent and an SNMP command, from the first format to second format and further allows translating the identification data for an SNMP sub-agent and an SNMP command and also provides an integrated customer interface and web-based delivery system for delivering to customers a number of products and services available from remote servers that facilitates and simplifies customer access to, and management of, all of their network assets and network management products and services.

As per claim 8, McHann discloses receiving an asynchronous client Trap message initiated by client over the internet protocol connection established with client, the asynchronous client Trap message including a client object identifier and a variable value associated with the client object identifier [column 8, line 27

– column 9, line 6]; identifying the client that initiated the asynchronous client Trap message [column 8, line 27 – column 9, line 6]; and generating an asynchronous master Trap message and providing the asynchronous master Trap message to the network management system , the asynchronous master Trap message including the value and a master object identifier , the master object identifier including a client identifier identifying the client that initiated the asynchronous client Trap message and a variable portion identifying the variable value [column 8, line 27 – column 9, line 6].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Champlin, McHann and Barry because they are all from the same field endeavor to provides a method which includes translating information data for an SNMP sub-agent and an SNMP command, from the first format to second format and further allows translating the identification data for an SNMP sub-agent and an SNMP command and also provides an integrated customer interface and web-based delivery system for delivering to customers a number of products and services available from remote servers that facilitates and simplifies customer access to, and management of, all of their network assets and network management products and services.

As per claims 12, and 14-17, claims 12, 14-17 are method claim of claims 3, and 5-8. They do not teach or further define over the limitation as recited in

claims 3, and 5-8, respectively. Therefore, claims 12 and 14-17 are rejected under same scope as discussed in claims 1, 3, and 5-8, supra.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Automated Trap Control For a Distributed Network Management System by Spencer U.S. Patent Number 6,253,243 B1.

b. Network Management System by Henderson et al. U.S. Patent Number 6,058,103.

c. Automated Trap Control For a Distributed Network Management System by Spencer U.S. Patent Number 6,253,243 B1.

d. Network Station and Network Management System by Ushijima et al. U.S. Patent Number 5,594,426.

e. Network Management System for Communication Networks by Azarmi et al. U.S. Patent Number 5,905,715.

f. Hierarchical Network Management System by Fujino et al. U.S. Patent Number 5,651,006.

g. Integrated Systems for Providing Communications Network Management Services and Interactive Generating Invoice Documents by Barry et al. U.S. Patent Number 7,225,249 B1.

13. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Saket K. Daftuar whose telephone number is 571-272-8363. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm M-W.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on 571-272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. K. D./

Examiner, Art Unit 2451

/Hassan Phillips/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2451